

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ B. _____

Date: _____ May 25, 2005 _____

Topic: First Review of a Recommendation to Approve a Teacher Education Program at Christopher Newport University

Presenter: Dr. Thomas A. Elliott, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Teacher Education and Licensure and Dr. Marsha Sprague, Director of Teacher Education, Christopher Newport University

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Origin:

_____ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

X Board review required by
_____ State or federal law or regulation
X Board of Education regulation
_____ Other: _____

X Action requested at this meeting: Waive first review and approve request for program approval.

_____ Action requested at future meeting: _____ (date)

Previous Review/Action:

_____ No previous board review/action

X Previous review/action
date July 23, 2003

action Final Board of Education approval granted to discontinue the current teacher preparation program at Christopher Newport University and approve a two-year pilot program with an on-site review and a recommendation prior to the end of the two-year period.

Background Information:

Christopher Newport University (CNU) has been approved by the Board of Education to offer programs for the preparation of school personnel since 1980. During the 2002-2003 academic year, the CNU Board of Visitors voted to discontinue certain professional preparation programs, including undergraduate teacher preparation.

In April of 2003, the Department of Education received a proposal from CNU to establish a new five-year teacher preparation program. The proposed program will allow students to graduate with a bachelor's degree in the liberal arts and a master's degree in teaching. Additionally, the proposal established a partnership agreement with teachers and administrators from the Newport News public schools and CNU faculty in the department of liberal arts. At the May 21, 2003, meeting of the Newport News school board, a partnership agreement between CNU and the Newport News public schools was adopted. On July 23, 2003, the Board of Education approved the new five-year teacher preparation program as a two-year pilot.

Summary of Major Elements

As the two-year pilot program concludes May 2005, a review of the Christopher Newport University teacher preparation program was conducted April 3-6, 2005. This review was conducted in accordance with the standards and procedures outlined in the *Regulations Governing Approved Programs for Virginia Institutions of Higher Education*, Effective July 1, 2001. The regulations governing approved programs set forth 20 standards in the following four categories:

- I. Program Design
- II. Faculty
- III. Candidates, and
- IV. Program Operation/Accountability.

The review team makes a recommendation of met or not met for each of the 20 standards. In addition, the team makes a recommendation of approved, approved with stipulations, or denied for the teacher preparation program as a whole. One of these three recommendations also is made for each teaching endorsement area program offered by the institution. The on-site review team recommendation for the Christopher Newport University teacher preparation program is approved. The review team recommendations was forwarded to the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) and at its May 11, 2005, meeting voted approved with stipulations based on weaknesses (i.e., one standard not met and 11 weaknesses) cited in the on-site review team report.

Approved with stipulations means that the institution's professional education school or department and endorsement programs does not meet all standards or has met the standards minimally with significant weaknesses. The university will submit to the Board of Education a report of corrective action identifying a specific period of time in which weaknesses are to be addressed within 90 days following action by the board.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive for first review the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure recommendation to grant approved with stipulations to the teacher preparation program at Christopher Newport University with a report of corrective action to be submitted by the university on or before August 23, 2005, (90 days) following action by the board.

Impact on Resources:

Expenses incurred during on site review of teacher education programs are funded by the hosting institution.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Teacher preparation programs reviewed under the state approval process are conducted on a five-year cycle. Programs that do not meet standards for continuing full approval may be reviewed as needed. Following submission of the detailed report of corrective action, an on site review of the program will be scheduled.